

REMARKS

The above-identified patent application is considered by the Examiner to contain claims directed to patentably distinct species; namely Figures 1A and 1B.

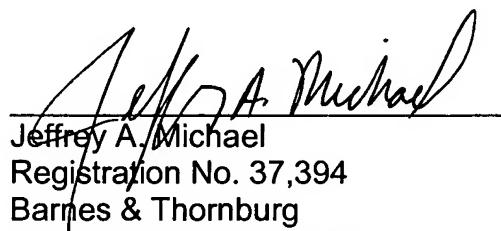
Applicants note that the system illustrated in FIG. 1A differs from the system illustrated in FIG. 1B only in that the fuel pump 18 in FIG. 1A is fluidly connected to a fuel accumulator or fuel storage unit 22, and the fuel accumulator 22 is then fluidly connected via a supply passage 26 to a number of fuel injectors 24₁ - 24_N. In contrast, the fuel pump 18 in FIG. 1B is fluidly connected directly to a so-called fuel "rail" 26', wherein the fuel rail 26' is fluidly connected directly to the number of fuel injectors 24₁ - 24_N. See p. 5, lines 10-23 and p. 8, line 30 - p. 9, line 1.

At col. 9, lines 9 - 12, applicants' define the term "fuel collection unit" as being "any of an accumulator-type fuel storage unit, such as unit 22 of FIG. 1A, a fuel rail-type storage unit, such as fuel rail 26', or the like." All of applicants' pending 26 claims include a "fuel collection unit" as a claim element. However, none of applicants' claims further distinguish the "fuel collection unit" as specifically being a fuel accumulator, such as illustrated in FIG. 1A, or a fuel rail, such as illustrated in FIG. 1B. Accordingly, none of applicants' 26 claims distinguish between the system illustrated in FIG. 1A and the system illustrated in FIG. 1B, and in fact all of applicants' 26 claims read on the system of FIG. 1A as well as on the system of FIG. 1B. In this regard, applicants' identification of claims that read on applicants' elected species would be the same regardless of their choice of species. For these reasons, applicants' respectfully request withdrawal of the Restriction/Election requirement.

In the event that the Restriction/Election requirement is not withdrawn, applicants elect the species corresponding to FIG. 1A. All 26 pending claims read on the system of FIG. 1A.

The Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss any unresolved matters.

Respectfully submitted,


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